



UNIVERSITY OF  
FLORIDA

E X T E N S I O N

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# SOUTH FLORIDA VEGETABLE PEST AND DISEASE HOTLINE

October 8, 2010

**The past week has been delightful as fall has come early to South Florida.** Average temperatures in the wake of Tropical Storm Nicole have been running several degrees below normal with highs in the 80s and low 90s and lows in the upper 50s and 60s. During most years, we do not see the first shot of cooler drier air until the middle of October, and it is usually rather short lived lasting only a day or two, with the real cool down not occurring until November.

**While Tropical Storm Nicole was a non-event across much of South Florida it did dump 2 -5 inches or more of rain on much of the East Coast which delayed operations in many areas.** See event rainfall summary below in News You Can Use.

**Growers are preparing land and laying plastic as weather permits with planting reaching a seasonal peak in all areas.** The season appears to be off to a good start with few problems. Growers around Plant City have begun to set some early strawberries. Light harvesting of cucumbers and squash has begun and some okra is

## FAWN Weather Summary

Date	Air Temp °F		Rainfall (Inches)	Ave Relative Humidity (Percent)	ET (Inches/Day) (Average)
	Min	Max			
<b>Balm</b>					
9/24 – 10/8/10	52.54	91.67	0.61	78	0.13
<b>Belle Glade</b>					
9/24 – 10/8/10	63.79	94.26	1.82	83	0.14
<b>Clewiston</b>					
9/24 – 10/8/10	59.14	93.11	0.95	82	0.13
<b>Ft Lauderdale</b>					
9/24 – 10/8/10	66.78	89.83	6.64	77	0.12
<b>Fort Pierce</b>					
9/24 – 10/8/10	61.95	92.17	1.29	80	0.12
<b>Homestead</b>					
9/24 – 10/8/10	63.86	90.34	3.94	81	0.12
<b>Immokalee</b>					
9/24 – 10/8/10	58.28	94.46	1.27	81	0.13

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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE, FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES, SEA GRANT AND 4-H YOUTH, STATE OF FLORIDA, IFAS, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AND BOARDS OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COOPERATING

still being harvested in Homestead. Tomato harvest in the Manatee Ruskin area should start in some early plantings in the next 10 days.

**The short-term forecast from the National Weather Service in Miami indicates the dry pattern will continue through next week as one such short wave lifts to the northeast as another wave moves into the Rockies and a ridge builds in between the two systems.** This will keep S Florida under a north to northeast flow keeping any moisture well to the south of the region and keeping dew points in the lower to mid 60s with virtually no chance for rainfall through the early part of the week.

**By mid week the high pressure will weaken and shift east into the Atlantic which may allow deeper layer moisture northward across South Florida increasing the chances for rain by mid week.**

**For additional information, visit the National Weather Service in Miami website at <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/mfl/newpage/index.html>**

## **Insects**

### **Leafminers**

**Growers and scouts in the Manatee/Ruskin area indicate that leafminer numbers are beginning to increase and that some growers have begun to apply controls.**

**Respondents in Palm Beach County report that some leafminers are beginning to show up around the area on eggplant and leafy greens.**

**Around Immokalee, reports indicate that growers are starting to see some low level leafminer stippling and presence of larvae. Ornamental producers report that leaf miner adults are flying around and leafminer activity has passed threshold levels requiring additional sprays.**

### **Whiteflies**

**Respondents from the Manatee/Ruskin area report that whitefly numbers have been up and down in tomato and have been high in some peppers. Some silverleaf has been reported in squash.**

**Around SW Florida, growers and scouts report that whiteflies numbers have declined and are mostly low.**

**Around Palm Beach County, whiteflies remain mostly low.**

### **Broad mites**

**Reports indicate that a few broad mites showing up in peppers and melons in a number of west coast locations.**

**Broad mites can be a major problem on pepper in Florida.** This species can also affect a large number of hosts including vegetables such as basil, eggplant, green beans, potato, and tomato as well as a variety of fruits and ornamental plants.

**This destructive pest attacks terminal leaves and flower buds and causes them to become malformed.** Broad mite feeding distorts plant tissue, causing leaves to become hardened, thickened and narrow, giving them a “strappy” appearance. The blooms abort and plant growth is stunted when heavy pressure is present.

**Mites are usually seen on the newest leaves and small fruit.** Leaves turn downward and turn coppery or purplish. Internodes shorten and the lateral buds break more than normal.

**Malformed terminal buds and stunted growth is often a telltale sign that broad mites are present.** Broad mites are extremely tiny and are difficult to see without a 10X or stronger hand lens. The mites may crowd into crevices and buds. Mites prefer the shaded side of fruit and the underside of leaves, which usually faces the plant, so scouts must be diligent and carefully inspect affected plants to detect these tiny creatures.

**Broad mite injury can be confused with herbicide injury, nutritional (boron) deficiencies or physiological disorders.**

**Broad mites are known to use insect hosts, including bees and whiteflies, to move from plant to plant.**

**While a number of products such as AgriMek and Oberon are labeled for control of this pest, sulfur, insecticidal oils or soaps may be nearly as effective and less toxic to the environment.** Due to short life cycles, frequent repeated sprays may be necessary to obtain control.

**Biological control agents including several species of predatory mites have been used successfully to control broad mites in field and green house situations.**

### **Worms**

**Reports from Manatee County indicate worm pressure has been steady and has increased to moderate levels in many areas.**

**Around the Glades, fall armyworm pressure has been high in sweet corn.**

**Growers and scouts in Palm Beach County report that worm pressure has declined over the past two weeks but note it was high in some places with a mix of loopers, beet armyworms and melonworms represented.**

**Respondents in SW Florida report worms pressure has remained moderate since the full moon and scouts report finding loopers, hornworms, beet armyworms, fall armyworms, and southern armyworms as well as a some melonworms on cucurbits.** They are not causing major problem however.

### **Aphids**

**A few winged aphids are showing up in scattered locations around South Florida particularly in squash.**

### **Spider mites**

**Reports indicate that spider mites are present in melons in the Ruskin area as well as eggplants in Palm Beach County**

### **Pepper Weevil**

**Growers around southwest Florida indicate that they are pickling up a few pepper weevils in traps.**

### **Cucumber beetles**

**Growers and scouts in the Glades and around Palm Beach County report minor problems with banded cucumber beetles on beans and other crops.**

**Cucumber beetles are also causing some problems in pepper around the Manatee County.**

## **Diseases**

### **Bacterial leaf spot**

**Around Immokalee, bacterial spot is present on tomato and pepper.** Reports indicate that bacteria soared in some areas that caught the heavier rains from the previous tropical events and happened to be in the pruning/tying phase reaching the tops in some tomatoes and slowing growth. Incidence and severity is lower in pepper and the last week's dry weather is slowing things down drying up lesions and allowing plants to grow out.

**In the Manatee Ruskin area, respondents indicate that there is some bacteria in pepper and a good bit in tomato but it is mostly dry and low in the plant.**

**Reports from Palm Beach indicate that bacterial spot is still coming from some greenhouses on tomato transplants.** Bacterial spot is mostly low to moderate, but there are some hotspots in some tomato fields where infected plants were set and then hit with heavy rains as well as in places where bacteria was present and plants staked and tied wet spreading the disease. Bacteria is also present in pepper but reports indicate resistant varieties are performing well.

**Note:** Although new Maneb labels no longer allow application to pepper, growers can still apply existing stocks of mane b with old labels to the crop.

**Some growers are reporting success with products like Serenade Max and Regalia tank mixed with copper as a replacement for mane b for bacterial spot control on pepper.** In addition to having active ingredients which directly kill bacteria, these products are said to trigger the plants immune system for extra assistance in disease control. Both are very safe to workers and have a 0 day PHI, and a 4 hour REI. They can also be used in organic production.

### **Target Spot**

**Growers and scouts in west central and southwest Florida report that they are beginning to see some target spot in older tomatoes where canopies have closed and aeration is impeded allowing foliage to stay wet longer in the morning.**

**Target spot is controlled primarily by applications of protectant fungicides.** It should be noted that tank-mix sprays of copper fungicides and mane b do not provide acceptable levels of target spot control. Recommended fungicides include various chlorothalnil formulations.

**Several outbreaks of target spot of tomato have been correlated with frequent use of copper/mane b tank-mixes for bacterial spot control to the exclusion of other fungicides.** This underscores the importance of correct diagnosis in implementing a disease control program in tomato.

### **TYLCV**

**Around Immokalee, TYLCV is around at low levels with a plant here or there in some places.**

**Respondents in the Manatee area report very little virus present in most areas at this time although some reports indicate some minor hotspots around Palmetto with infection rates approaching 5%.**

**Reports from Palm Beach indicate that TYLCV occurrence remains mostly low with a few hotspots.**

## **Pythium**

**Growers in scouts in all areas had some problems with pythium taking out a few transplants in some fields hit by heavy rains last month and necessitating resets. Dry weather has helped immensely.**

**Reports from the Glades indicate that pythium also caused some problems in beans.**

## **Phytophthora**

**Respondents in Palm Beach County note a few problems with Phytophthora on pepper in some wetter fields.**

## **Choanephora wet rot**

**Growers and scouts around SW Florida reported some low level choanephora wet rot in a few pepper, squash and bean plantings following the rains in September but note that has pretty much stopped with drier weather.**

## **Downy mildew**

**Downy mildew is present on basil and growers need to be vigilant and on a preventative spray program to avoid losses.**

**Growers and scouts in the Manatee and Palm Beach County are reporting some downy mildew affecting cucumber. As in basil, growers need to be vigilant and on a preventative spray program to avoid losses.**

## **Powdery mildew**

**Respondents in Palm Beach are reporting some problems with powdery mildew on squash and cucumbers.**

## **Southern corn leaf blight**

**Some southern corn leaf blight is being reported on sweet corn in the Glades. Pressure is light.**

## **Alternaria**

**Some Alternaria has been reported on snap beans in the Glades. Incidence and severity is light.**

## **Southern blight**

**Growers and scouts in all areas are reporting finding a few scattered tomato plants with southern blight.**

## **News You Can Use**

### **Experts Fear Phosphorus Shortage in Future**

To say that phosphorus is critical both to farming and life in general is no understatement. Phosphorus serves a critical metabolic function in plants and animals, helping organisms store and use energy for growth and reproduction. Without it, food production would be impossible. There are estimates we have as little as 50 years left in the current phosphate mine. China is buying up as much phosphorus as it can secure from foreign

sources, including the United States. Some experts are even calling for the formation of an international body to monitor the use and recycling of phosphorus.

A mineral not only essential to farming, but also to life on earth is running out, and scientists currently are at a loss as to what to do about it.

The mineral is phosphorus, which, as The London Times reported two years ago, is being “mined, used and wasted as never before.”

To say that phosphorus is critical both to farming and life in general is no understatement. Phosphorus serves a critical metabolic function in plants and animals, helping organisms store and use energy for growth and reproduction. Without it, food production would be impossible.

Phosphorus is equally as critical to humans, aiding both our metabolism, respiration and building strong bones.

“Plants take it up, we ingest the plants or we ingest animals that ingest other plants,” says Charles Mitchell, an Alabama Cooperative Extension System agronomist and Auburn university professor of agronomy and soils who has followed the growing crisis for several years.

How serious is the phosphorus shortfall?

“There are estimates we have as little as 50 years left in the current phosphate mines,” says Mitchell.

The London Times reports that “massive inefficiencies” in farm-to-fork food processing coupled with growing Asian demand for meat and dairy produce account for much for the current phosphorus pinch. Spikes in demands for bio-fuel crops have also contributed.

Much like oil and coal, naturally occurring phosphate deposits are by-products of the death and decay of organisms over millions of years. However, compared with oil and coal, such deposits are rare.

“Because phosphate is so distributed in plants and animals worldwide and so reactive with other elements, you don’t find naturally occurring deposits as readily as you do coal or oil,” Mitchell says.

The richest deposits in North America are found in Florida and in eastern North Carolina, though output from these deposits has dropped by as much as 20 percent in the last few years.

Morocco commands the largest deposits, about 32 percent of the world’s share. Other major deposits are found in Western Sahara, South Africa, Jordan, Syria and Russia.

The Times also reports that a global struggle to secure depleting supplies of phosphorus is already well under way. For example, China, which possesses an estimated 13 billion tons of phosphate rock, has imposed a 135 percent tariff on phosphate rock exports — an action that sent ripples through the world economy.

It’s also buying up as much phosphorus as it can secure from foreign sources, including the United States, Mitchell says.

Skeptics may contend that humans have travelled down a similar road before. In the 19th century, for example, farmers were running critically short of guano, which then served as the primary source of nitrogen fertilizer. At about the time supplies approached depletion, with the specter of food shortages and famine looming, two German scientists stepped forward with a method for extracting nitrogen from the air.

However, phosphorus, by its nature, can’t be synthesized, Mitchell says.

If there is any good news, it's that phosphorus, unlike energy produced from fossil fuels, isn't irretrievably lost.

"We can destroy fossil fuels by burning them," Mitchell says. "But you can't destroy phosphorus — it's going to remain in the biosphere somewhere, in plants and animals or in minerals in the soil."

Likewise, he points to research that has demonstrated consistently that cropland with adequate stocks of phosphorus can remain under cultivation for years, if not centuries, without depletion of these stocks.

"That's because plants don't take up nearly as much phosphorus as they do potassium or nitrogen," Mitchell says.

Even so, Mitchell predicts that effective stewardship of this rapidly depleting resource will become a major worldwide preoccupation over the next few decades.

Consequently, he says that old standby farming methods such as soil testing will take on renewed significance. For that matter, so will precision agriculture, which up to now, has been viewed primarily as a cost-saving measure.

Some experts are even calling for the formation of an international body to monitor the use and recycling of phosphorus.

By Jim Langcuster, Auburn University, SE Farm Press, 10-07-2010

Source URL: <http://southeastfarmpress.com/management/experts-fear-phosphorus-shortage-future>

## **Harmonized GAP Standards Gaining Momentum**

The bane of many fruit and vegetable growers and shippers often has been a tool designed to ensure the safety of their products: audits.

The process of going through an audit can be time-consuming; going through multiple audits brings sometimes crushing expense and wearisome redundancy, according to many companies.

That's why industry groups, including the United Fresh Produce Association and the Produce Marketing Association, as well as other regional and national groups, have gotten behind efforts to standardize the auditing of good agricultural practices.

Last year, United's Food Safety & Technology Council, comprising safety and quality-assurance experts across the supply chain, studied the problem and reported there was "scientific potential for harmonizing basic GAP standards to meet the needs of these many stakeholders."

To many in the industry, GAP standard harmonization is not a question of "if" but "when."

"They've basically prepared a produce standard," said Bob Whitaker, chief science and technology officer with the Wilmington, Del.-based PMA. "They've put them together to make a harmonized standard, and now they're working on the packing operations."

Setting up a comprehensive standard is only one step in a long process, however, Whitaker said.

"The big thing there is its fine to have a standard, but how do you manage that audit, the training of the auditor?" he said. "There are corrective actions. All of those pieces are important, and that's the next step that's being worked on by this harmonization group headed by Dave Corsi of Wegmans (Food Markets Inc.). That's really been a core piece of this thing."

Florida is establishing a common audit standard for its tomato growers, beginning in October, and soon the same rules will apply to tomatoes “across the hemisphere,” said Reggie Brown, executive vice president of the Florida Tomato Exchange in Maitland.

“We’ve certainly had good momentum in the tomato industry in moving toward this standard,” he said. “It’s been an interesting process, and we think it’s the right way to do it, with the industry, regulators and scientists at the same table.”

Buyers have to believe in whatever system is put in place, Whitaker said.

“The buying community has to have confidence that the audit process is being conducted well,” he said. “There are a lot of very good companies doing audits out there now that have these types of programs in place. The question is can you use the same kinds of practices and standards?”

Getting to GAP harmonization won’t be a short-term process, Whitaker added.

“There’s still quite a bit of work to be done,” he said. “It’s important, clearly, to reduce some of that stress and noise and focus on other areas of food safety. I think it’s going to take some time. Our industry is very complex and different growing areas and crops and parts of the country all have different focus.”

David Gombas, Washington, D.C.-based United’s senior vice president of food safety and technology, said he thinks the industry will reach the goal of harmonization.

“We’re one year into it, and I’m more optimistic today than a year ago, when it was a just a possibility. Now, we’re looking at probability,” he said.

Gombas said harmonization could be as little as a year away.

Donna Garren, president and general manager of Watsonville, Calif.-based NSF Davis, said she too was optimistic.

“United actually has come quite far with that particular effort,” she said. “They’re pretty much to the end point in harmonizing the elements of food safety standards that exist for produce, coming out with a standard of approach.”

The next step is figuring how to use that standard, Garren said.

By Jim Offner, The Packer, 10/07/2010

### **Florida Growers Contribute to Farmworker Children Schooling**

Florida grower-shippers have contributed almost \$30,000 to the Redlands Christian Migrant Association, a charitable organization that cares for and educates farmworker children.

A Sept. 21 silent auction during the Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association’s yearly convention in Naples, Fla., generated \$28,495 for the Immokalee, Fla.-based RCMA. The auction, sponsored by the Florida Specialty Crop Foundation, an FFVA research and education division; generated \$16,000. Growers and members, however, contributed \$13,000 in “above and beyond” side contributions to the foundation.

The money has special value to RCMA because a state school-readiness contract that requires matching funds provides the nonprofit group up to \$13 million a year, Barbara Mainster, RCMA’s executive director, said in a



news release.

With a 1:16 matching funds ratio, Mainster said the FFVA's contribution qualified the social services organization to receive \$456,000 in state funds.

"What a wonderful benefit!" she said in the release. "These are some of our oldest, dearest friends."

This was the 12th year the foundation sponsored a benefit auction at the FFVA convention.

RCMA provides preschool education for thousands of Florida farmworker children through childcare centers in 21 Florida counties

By Doug Ohlemeier, The Packer, 10/06/2010

### **Summary of Rainfall Event of September 28-29, 2010**

Deep tropical moisture surged northward into South Florida from the western Caribbean Sea late on September 27th, and remained in place through the evening of the 29th before much drier air moved into the region from the west. This moisture was associated with the northern periphery of short lived Tropical Storm Nicole. Image: Storm total rainfall estimated from the KAMX Miami Doppler Weather Radar (for the event, 9/28-9/30).

Rainfall averaged 2-5" Atlantic coast, with localized amounts in the 6-8" range. Much lower amounts occurred along the Gulf coast, with amounts averaging just around an inch.

An axis of 10"+ amounts fell from the upper Keys out over the local Atlantic waters. 12.71" of rain was measured at N. Key Largo.

Below are two day rainfall totals (9/28 - 9/30): City	Rainfall (inches)
Miami Beach	7.20
South Miami	6.10
WFO Miami	6.00
Miami	5.83
Perrine	5.65
North Miami Beach	5.56
Juno Beach	5.47
Hialeah	5.35
Hollywood	5.10
Homestead General	4.58
Palm Beach Gardens	4.17
Tamiami	4.12
Cooper City	4.10
Opa-Locka	3.47

### **Oct. 15 Deadline To Apply For Reimbursement of Organic Certification Costs**

Certified organic growers and handlers in Florida have until Oct. 15, 2010, to apply to Florida Organic Growers (FOG) for reimbursement of up to 75 percent of certification costs, or a maximum of \$750. Reimbursement for certification costs paid between Oct. 1, 2009, and Sept. 29, 2010, will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis until funds are depleted.

To qualify for the organic certification cost share reimbursement, an operator must have certified organic farm or production facilities in Florida, must hold an organic certificate issued by a USDA accredited certification agency issued during the period specified, and must not have received any duplicate reimbursement.

The 2008 Farm Bill provided funding for the USDA AMS National Organic Certification Cost Share Program. USDA AMS enters into agreements with state departments of agriculture to administer the program within each department's state. FOG operates the program for Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

The Certification Cost Share Program assists growers in recovering some of the cost associated with being certified organic, hopefully encouraging more growers to adopt organic production practices.

For more information contact Florida Organic Growers at 352.377.6345, email [fog@foginfo.org](mailto:fog@foginfo.org) or visit [www.foginfo.org/certcostshare](http://www.foginfo.org/certcostshare).

### **Follow SW Florida Vegetable Grower on Facebook**

SW Florida Vegetable Grower is now on Facebook providing up-to-date news for vegetable growers and industry reps on the go!

This is the place to find what you need to know about growing vegetables in SW Florida. Bringing you the most up-to-date news; about varieties, pest control tactics, tips and breaking news, to help make you a more successful grower.

Relevant, timely information and discussion topics that help the fruit and vegetable industry understand how to succeed in this dynamic and ever-changing business.

Follow us on Facebook at <http://bit.ly/cI28qE>

Facebook is a social networking website with more than 500 million active users in July 2010, which is about one person for every fourteen in the world. In the US, almost over 100 million people use Facebook. For the younger crowd (whether in age or spirit), its use is nearly universal. Your kids are on it, many of your friends too. Check it out and get with the times!

### **Pesticide Pot Pourri**

- Syngenta Crop Protection advises that the new 24c label reduces the PHI for Dual Mangum on tomatoes to 60 days when the applied rate is below 1.67 pts/acre.

Growers must have a copy of this label and the container label on hand during application. This label was made possible through the support of Mike Aerts with FFVA and Dr. Bill Stall of the University of Florida.

- Syngenta Crop Protection has revised the Revus Top label which has been approved by DACS and contains significant improvement in crop rotation intervals following use of Revus Top. There is now a 0 day plantback for most vegetables except sweet corn which is 30 days and beans which appears to be 8 months.
- USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service will soon conduct its 2010 Vegetable Chemical Use survey. The survey provides detailed estimates of farm operators' use of fertilizers and pesticides as well as pest management practices on vegetable crops.

Voluntary participation is encouraged as it ensures that accurate data are available to government agencies and other decision-makers. All data collected is confidential.

**South Florida Vegetable Pest and Disease Hotline** – if you get the hotline second hand from another source you may be missing the Quotable Quotes and the Lighter Side – to subscribe direct – email [gmcavoy@ufl.edu](mailto:gmcavoy@ufl.edu)

## Up Coming Meetings

**Sept 29 – Oct 1, 2010**      **FFVA 36th Annual Agricultural Labor Seminar.**

6515 International Drive  
Orlando, Florida 32819  
Contact FFVA for details – [www.ffva.com](http://www.ffva.com)

**October 13, 2010**      **Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) Educational Seminar**      **7:30 AM. – 5:30 PM.**  
**and CEU Session**

Earn up to 10 CCA CEU's in  
- Soil & Water Management (5 CEUs)  
- Crop Management (5 CEUs)

On-site program at the UF/IFAS Citrus Research and Education Center, Lake Alfred. Refreshments will be provided during the break.

Available by videoconference at UF/IFAS Research and Education Centers in:  
Gulf Coast REC in Balm  
Southwest Florida REC in Immokalee  
Indian River REC in Fort Pierce  
University of Florida Main Campus in Gainesville  
Lake County Extension Center in Tavares

Registration: \$100. Lunch provided at all sites. Program and registration is available online at [http://www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu/crec\\_websites/cca/registration.htm](http://www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu/crec_websites/cca/registration.htm)

**Oct. 13-15, 2010-09-05**      **69th Annual Meeting of the Florida Farm Bureau Federation**

Hilton Oceanfront Resort  
Daytona Beach, Florida

**November 10, 2010**      **Florida Ag Expo**

UF/IFAS Gulf Coast Research and Education Center  
Balm, Florida

For details and to register on line, go to <http://floridaagexpo.com/>

## Opportunities

### Farm Land for Lease

Farm Land for lease in LaBelle area – contact Clyde Lavender at 863-673-2338

Farm Land for lease on Babcock Ranch, Hwy 31, Charlotte County. Rotational fields or permanent locations, phone 941-639-3958

### Help Wanted:

Full time sprayer driver wanted for Myakka City Farm

Requirements:

Spraying experience preferred

Tractor driving experience

Some record keeping

Training provided

Call Guy: 941 8095125 (leave message)

## Websites

Cucurbit Viruses in Florida – this Florida Department of Agriculture has good photos of many of the commonly encountered cucurbit viruses in Florida. Check it out at:

[http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/pi/enpp/pathology/florida\\_viruses/Cucurbits/CucurbitVir.html](http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/pi/enpp/pathology/florida_viruses/Cucurbits/CucurbitVir.html)

**Southeast Farm Press** - Targets issues and interests related to the farmers of cotton, peanuts, tobacco, corn, soybean, vegetables and fruit/nut operations in the Southeast. Check it out at <http://southeastfarmpress.com>

**The Packer** - Produce industry news since 1893. The Packer covers produce shipping, distribution, marketing and trends in fresh produce including fruits and vegetables in North America.

<http://thepacker.com>

## Quotable Quotes

There are three easy ways of losing money - racing is the quickest, women the most pleasant, and farming the most certain. - Lord Amherst

Agriculture not only gives riches to a nation, but the only riches she can call her own. - Samuel Johnson

There is only one thing that can bring our nation down - our dependence on foreign countries for food and energy. Agriculture is the backbone of our economy. - John Salazar

Good farming is the greatest form of artistic expression. Farmers create the bridge between nature and human nourishment. Food as the product of the agricultural arts goes beyond any image on the wall of a gallery or museum. Good eating, in that sense, could be considered one of the most integrated forms of art appreciation. Anyone who thinks there's safety in numbers hasn't looked at the stock market pages.

Change is inevitable - except from a vending machine.

## On the Lighter Side

### Why Some Men Have Dogs And Not Wives:

1. The later you are, the more excited your dogs are to see you.
2. Dogs don't notice if you call them by another dog's name.
3. Dogs like it if you leave a lot of things on the floor.
4. A dog's parents never visit.
5. Dogs agree that you have to raise your voice to get your point across.
6. You never have to wait for a dog; they're ready to go 24 hours a day.
7. Dogs find you amusing when you're drunk.
8. Dogs like to go hunting and fishing.
9. A dog will not wake you up at night to ask, "If I died, would you get another dog?"
10. If a dog has babies, you can put an ad in the paper and give them away.
11. A dog will let you put a studded collar on it without calling you a pervert.
12. If a dog smells another dog on you, they don't get mad. They just think it's interesting.
13. Dogs like to ride in the back of a pickup truck.

And last, but not least:

14. If a dog leaves, it won't take half of your stuff.

To test this theory: Lock your wife and your dog in the garage for an hour. Then open it and see who's happy to see you.

(Feel free to substitute women for men and husbands for wives – GM ☺)

### Kids Say the Darnedest Things!

Melanie (age 5), Asked her Granny how old she was. Granny replied she was so old she didn't remember any more. Melanie said, 'If you don't remember you must look in the back of your panties. Mine say five to six.'

Steven (age 3), Hugged and kissed his Mom good night. 'I love you so much that when you die I'm going to bury you outside my bedroom window.'

Brittany (age 4), had an ear ache and wanted a pain killer. She tried in vain to take the lid off the bottle. Seeing her frustration, her Mom explained it was a child-proof cap and she'd have to open it for her. Eyes wide with wonder, the little girl asked: 'How does it know it's me?'

DJ (age 4), Stepped onto the bathroom scale and asked: 'How much do I cost?'

Tammy (age 4) was with her mother when they met an elderly, rather wrinkled woman her Mom knew. Tammy looked at her for a while and then asked, 'Why doesn't your skin fit your face?'

James (age 4) was listening to a Bible story. His dad read: 'The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city but his wife looked back and was turned to salt.' Concerned, James asked: 'What happened to the flea?'

The Sermon, this Mom will never forget.

This particular Sunday sermon... 'Dear Lord,' the minister began, with arms extended toward heaven and a rapturous look on his upturned face. 'Without you, we are but dust...' He would have continued but at that

moment my very obedient daughter who was listening leaned over to me and asked quite audibly in her shrill little four year old girl voice, 'Mom, what is butt dust?'

**Note: State and local budgets cuts are threatening to further reduce our funding – if you are receiving currently receiving the hotline by mail and would like to switch over to electronic delivery – just drop me an email. It is much quicker and you will get the hotline with in minutes of my completing it and help conserve dwindling resources at the same time. Thanks to those that have already made the switch.**

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